



PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

July – 2006 Volume 6, Issue 7

Office of Local and Rural Health

Roderick L. Bremby, Secretary

Kathleen Sebelius, Governor



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SHAWNEE COUNTY HEALTH AGENCY HIRES MEDICAL DIRECTOR



Dr. Myron Leinwetter joined the Shawnee County Health Agency, SCHA, team on May 15. Dr. Leinwetter will serve as Medical Director of the Shawnee County Health Agency Community Health Center. He will provide primary care and health related services for the medically underserved and uninsured population of Shawnee County and the surrounding region. He will provide clinical leadership in addition to providing direct client medical care.

Dr. Leinwetter, a native Kansan, received his undergraduate degree from the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy. He received a Doctorate of Osteopathy from the University of Health Sciences in Kansas City, Missouri. Dr. Leinwetter completed his internship at Sandusky Memorial Hospital in Sandusky, Ohio. Dr. Leinwetter has spent most of an medical career in Kansas with the exception of a year spent doing medical missions in San Jose, Costa Rica. He comes to SCHA from the Marian Clinic where he has served as a staff

physician since November 2004. Dr. Leinwetter plans to continue his work at the Marian Clinic as a volunteer. He resides in Rossville with his wife.

SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR



As special projects coordinator for State Health Director Dr. Howard Rodenberg, Aidan Loveland Koster spends most of her time on...well...special projects. More specifically, Aidan's responsibilities include serving as the administrator for the Institutional Review Board, which oversees KDHE research projects involving human subjects; compiling research and writing policy for various Division of Health initiatives, including expanded newborn screening and workplace wellness; working with the team that responds to disease outbreaks and health crises; and creating the exciting presentations Dr. Rodenberg uses during his public speaking appearances. Additionally, when the Kansas Legislature is in full swing, Aidan will be responsible for coordinating the legislative effort for the Division of Health, reviewing testimony, compiling legislative submissions, and attending many, many committee hearings.

Aidan came to KDHE permanently on April 10, after serving as a Kansas Governor's Fellow for nine months. During her time as a Governor's Fellow, Aidan spent four months at KDHE working on Medicaid policy research and serving on the Legislative Team during the 2006 Session of the Kansas Legislature. Aidan also worked for the Kansas Department on Aging during her fellowship, and was formerly a public management intern at the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System.

Aidan was raised in Lawrence, and graduated this May from the University of Kansas with a Juris Doctor (law) and a master's in Public Administration. She also attended KU as an undergraduate, receiving a bachelor's in Germanic Languages and Literatures. Aidan and her husband, Dr. Chris Koster, live in Kansas City, Kansas with their daughter Emma, 2.

EXPLORING ACCREDITATION FOR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS



In August 2005, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) announced formal efforts to explore development of a voluntary accreditation system for state and local public health agencies. This national collaborative Steering Committee will make definitive recommendations regarding how a voluntary, national accreditation system should be structured, and whether it is feasible and desirable to implement such a system.

The Steering Committee comprises public health practice groups viewed as key stakeholders in this issue. A Planning Committee consisting of the executives from NACCHO, ASTHO, the American Public Health Association (APHA), and the National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) are coordinating the efforts of the Steering Committee.

It is anticipated that the Steering Committee will issue its recommendations in September 2006. The committee's deliberations will be informed by a series of workgroups that will examine issues associated with establishing an accreditation system. Local health departments are urged to review the proposed model for a Voluntary National Accreditation Program for State and Local Public Health Departments at www.exploringaccreditation.org/. Please respond with comments at the same Website by Wednesday, July 26.

For additional information and resource materials go to the Websites listed below:

www.naccho.org/topics/infrastructure/exploringaccreditation.cfm

www.naccho.org/topics/operationaldefinition.cfm

www.naccho.org/topics/infrastructure/OperationalDefinition_publication.cfm

STOPPING ANHYDROUS AMMONIA THEFT!



KDHE Meth Watch Program has been working with the Kansas Ag Retailers Association, the Kansas Meth Prevention Project, and the K-State Research and Extension to include Kansas farmers and ranchers in the fight against methamphetamine production and use. Since inception of the project in December 2005 the KDHE Meth Watch staff distributed 34,000 Meth Watch decals for anhydrous ammonia tank in Kansas.



Anhydrous ammonia is very important to the agricultural community and a key ingredient in meth manufacture in Kansas. For that reason it is frequently stolen from nurse tanks at farms, ranches and agriculture related businesses. The decals provide farmers and ranchers an opportunity to become involved in their community's efforts to address the methamphetamine problem. Decals placed on nurse tanks may act as a theft deterrent and increase farm safety.



Meth manufacture and usage in a community can lead to increased crime, environmental contamination, abuse and neglect of children, and danger to first responders. Over 385 meth labs were found in Kansas in 2005.

Please check out the KDHE Meth Watch site at www.kansasmethwatch.com. If you have suggestions for the site, please email tciaffone@kdhe.state.ks.us or call 785-368-7301.

KALHD 2006 MID-YEAR CONFERENCE



Colleen Hughes speaks to KALHD participants.



Colleen Hughes, RN, PhD

The KALHD 2006 Mid-Year Conference was held on June 20 - 21 at the Holiday Inn Select in Wichita. Approximately 80 people attended the two-day conference. The pictures highlight two of the conference speakers: Colleen Hughes, RN, PhD, National Steering Committee Member, Executive Director, Mountain Health Consulting, Inc., Nevada, who spoke on "Exploring Voluntary National Accreditation for State and Local Public Health Departments," and Debbie Donaldson, Director of Human Services at Sedgwick County Health Department, Wichita, who spoke on "NACO Prescription Drug Card."

Local health departments are urged to review the proposed model for a Voluntary National Accreditation Program for State and Local Public Health Departments. Also, please provide feedback by July 26 at www.exploringaccreditation.org.

Debbie Donaldson, Director of Human Services at Sedgwick County Health Department speaks at the conference.



SHARE YOUR PUBLIC HEALTH STORY

*Submitted by Earlene Stover
Reno County Health Department*



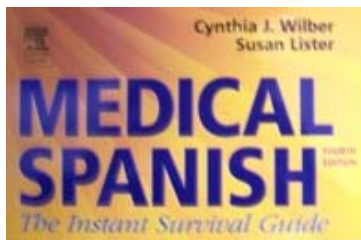
StoryCorps, a project sponsored by National Public Radio and the Library of Congress, is traveling to Kansas to provide an opportunity for Kansans to document and share stories of their life and work experiences. StoryCorps is a national project to instruct and inspire Americans to record one another's stories in sound. The goal of the project is to interview people from all walks of life so that the history of individual life stories and contributions are documented for future generations.

Interested individuals may record an interview at the MobileBooth, and will receive a copy of their interview on CD, with the option of archiving the interview at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

The StoryCorps website, www.storycorps.net, provides a guide to preparing your story for the interview. Please consider sharing your personal public health story to inform and inspire others regarding the contributions of public health workers to the people of Kansas.

The StoryCorps MobileBooth will be in Garden City from August 3 through 13. Reservations are required two weeks in advance of the interview date, and may be made electronically on the StoryCorps Web site, or by calling 800-850-4406.

MEDICAL SPANISH



"Medical Spanish, The Instant Survival Guide" contains information from the Public Health Foundation's Learning Resource Center that every English health professional who works with Spanish-speaking patients will appreciate. Two of California's leading Spanish language educators present communication advice on health issues ranging from medical to administrative, psychiatric to nutritional, greetings and social amenities to medical forms. Designed to elicit a "yes" or "no" answer, these questions are ideal for users with no knowledge of Spanish.

The new 4th Edition offers updated and expanded coverage of mental health and psychiatry, workplace injury and occupational health, AIDS/HIV, child and adult vaccinations, environmental toxins, sun exposure, sports medicine, and much more. This book is written by Cynthia Wilber and Susan Lister. Item No ELS-008 costs \$37.95 + shipping. http://bookstore.phf.org/product_info.php?cPath=66&products_id=486

Please call toll free (877) 252-1200 or order online at <http://bookstore.phf.org>

CLEANING UP SCHOOL BUS EMISSIONS WITH DIESEL RETROFIT DEVICES

*by Ralph J. Kieffer
Bureau of Air and Radiation*

The Bureau of Air and Radiation's mission is "to protect the public health and environment from air pollution." The Bureau's Compliance and Enforcement Section is responsible for assisting the owners and operators of air pollution emission sources while remaining in compliance, and for taking appropriate enforcement actions against owners or operators who violate the state's air quality statutes or regulations, or their permits. The overall goal of these activities is to ensure that public health and environmental quality are protected from the effects of air pollution.

As part of that overall goal of improving air quality, the Compliance Section has the option of allowing violators to apply a portion of any civil penalties to projects that provide environmental benefits. These Supplemental Environmental Projects, or SEPs, essentially fund pollution control projects or programs that would not otherwise be accomplished. SEPs that reduce emissions of air pollutants that would otherwise be released into the atmosphere can directly benefit public health and environmental quality much more than the payment of penalties. There are limitations on the use of these SEPs, and typically this requires an expenditure higher than the amount of the civil penalty that it offsets.

School bus diesel engines have been identified as a source of emissions that has a potentially significant impact on children. Diesel emissions include particulate matter (PM), nitrogen oxides (NOx), and hydrocarbons (HC).



Fine particulate matter may impact lung development in children. The negative impacts can be increased as buses idle on the school grounds allowing emissions to accumulate, and to even enter the building.

One option for controlling emissions from diesel engines is to install a catalyst or a particulate filter on older engines. This retrofitting of a control device on an existing engine can accomplish significant reductions in PM. An oxidation catalyst may cost between \$1,000.00 to \$2,000.00, and can result in a 20 to 30 percent reduction in PM emissions and 50 percent reduction in hydrocarbons. Pollutants are broken down in the exhaust stream to less harmful components. Catalysts can be used with regular diesel fuel. A PM filter may cost between \$5,000 and \$10,000, and in combination with the required ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel can result in a PM reduction of 60 to 90 percent.

Using a SEP, a violator will submit a check which will pay the costs of the equipment and installation for a designated number of buses. One goal is to select a school district that is located in the area affected by the air quality violation to improve the air quality of that area.

The use of SEPs to accomplish school bus diesel retrofit has a particularly beneficial result, as the emissions of school buses impact children the most. The school districts may achieve a healthier result sooner than if they were to try to fund the retrofit themselves. This is a real "win-win" situation.

Additional measures will continue to reduce the emissions from diesel engines, including ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel, and EPA requirements for cleaner diesel engines by 2007. Schools can also adopt policies that require bus drivers to minimize the time they spend idling the engines at the school to reduce emissions.

Finally, school buses and trucks may be retrofitted without our involvement. The efforts through SEPs are a start, and provide an example of what can be accomplished, but because there are not likely to be enough violators to supply funds to retrofit every school bus, school districts may wish to consider acting on their own to protect the health of their children.

For more information, the EPA's Diesel Retrofit Website is at: www.epa.gov/otaq/retrofit/.

SIX STEPS TO SAFETY PACKETS

From SIDS SAFETY NET

Vol. 8, Issue 2 - Second Quarter June 2006



Over 1,600 Six Steps to Safety Packets were distributed to Healthy Start Home Visitors at the 2006 Governor's Conference on Public Health in Wichita on April 12. Six Step Packets will be delivered to new and expectant parents during home visits from local health departments. Thanks to the CJ Foundation for SIDS, Children's Miracle Network, March of Dimes Greater Kansas Chapter, Employees Community Fund of Boeing Wichita, Ronald McDonald Charities, Wichita Community Foundation, Wichita Greyhound



Charities, K.T. Wiedemann Foundation, Cargill Cares and the Junior League of Wichita for funding the project. A special thanks to the volunteers who helped assemble packets (Boy Scout Troop 405 and the Junior League of Wichita) and Healthy Start Home Visitors who will educate the general public about reducing the risk of SIDS and all infant mortality.



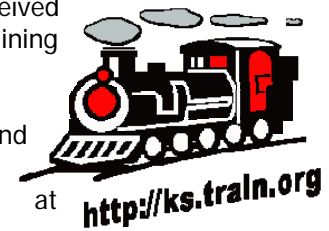
KS-TRAIN TIPS

KS-TRAIN TIP: Update your Learning Record to verify that you have received your IS 700 NIMS Certificate: Email dnickels@kdhe.state.ks.us to verify your training record for you.

KS-TRAIN TIP: Please update your KS-TRAIN account!

Click "**My Account**" in the "My Learning Record" **blue** file folder on the right hand side of the home page. Update information as indicated. Click the "Save" button.

To change your login name, contact the KS-TRAIN Administrator at dnickels@kdhe.state.ks.us



Live events posted on KS-TRAIN <http://ks.train.org>

- [KS-TRAIN Course Provider & Administration Training](#), July 13, Topeka
- [Preparing for Burn Disasters](#), Multiple dates/sites, July-August
- [Home Visitation Training](#), Starting July 10, Garden City; July 17, Oakley; September 12, Dodge City
- [HIV Prevention and Behavior Change Counseling Strategies](#), July 18-20, Topeka
- [KLETC: Instructor Development – Learning Event](#), July 24, Hutchinson
- [WMD Threat and Risk Assessment for Local Jurisdictions](#), July 25, Topeka
- [Healthy Start Home Visitor Fall Regional Training 2006](#), Multiple dates/sites, August-December
- [HIV/STD Basic Training Course #1](#), August 17, Salina
- [KPHA 2006 Conference: Speaking a Common Language the New Voice of Public Health](#), September 26-28, 2006, Topeka

Not all courses, dates, and sessions that are posted on KS-TRAIN are listed below.

FREE Web-based Courses Available through **KS-TRAIN: [HIV/STD Basic Course #1](#)** by the HIV Program, Kansas Department of Health & Environment: Topics include, Hepatitis, TB, HIV/STD transmission and prevention issues, including human sexuality and drug use; statistics; attitudes and terminology related to risk behaviors; and basic psychosocial needs of infected persons are also part of this web-based course. **CNE credits are available.**

[2005 All Hazards Behavioral Health Symposium](#) from the 2005 Conference. This course provides the PowerPoint and handouts as resource tools for your preparedness team. The mission of the symposium was to increase the knowledge base for Behavioral Health Specialists for response to emergency events or acts of terrorism; to increase the visibility of a behavioral health professional's role in emergency response to all hazards; and to increase the knowledge base and awareness of emergency responders for disaster-related behavioral health issues.

[Diabetes Epidemic: Preventing the Preventable](#) from the University at Albany School of Public Health; NYS Department of Health, Diabetes Prevention & Control Program (1.5 of CNE): James Desemone, MD, and Elizabeth Venditti, PhD, discuss risk factors for developing type 2 diabetes and describe strategies for helping patients prevent this disease. As a result of viewing this broadcast, participants will be able to:

- Identify three factors that put patients at high risk for developing type 2 diabetes
- Describe three overall behavioral changes that health care providers can discuss with their patients to reduce the transition from impaired glucose tolerance to type 2 diabetes
- Identify specific individuals and programs within and outside of their practice environment that can become part of a diabetes prevention team for their patients
- Identify three key behavioral strategies that patients can use to get started losing weight
- Identify available resources to assist health care providers in meeting clinical practice recommendations for people already diagnosed with diabetes

Dr. Desemone is Director of the Goodman Diabetes Service, Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism at Albany Medical Center in Albany, NY. Dr. Venditti is Director of the Lifestyle Resource Core for the Diabetes Prevention Program/Diabetes Prevention Program Outcomes Study at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and Assistant Professor of Psychiatry in the Department of Behavioral Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh.

KANSAS CENTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS LIBRARY

New items have been added to the Kansas Center for Public Health Preparedness Library. The library is designed to serve as a research, training and education resource for local agencies involved with preparedness and response issues.

Items newly available for checkout include:

- ◆ WMD Terrorism: Dealing with Risks and Consequences (CD – 1 copy)
- ◆ Biosecurity: Perception is Not Reality – The Need for a New Paradigm (VHS video – 2 copies)
- ◆ Assessing Systematic Impact of Disaster and Terrorism (VHS video – 1 copy)
- ◆ Planning for the Needs of Special Populations (VHS video – 1 copy)
- ◆ Hurricane Katrina & Policy Development: Effects of the Storm (VHS video – 1 copy)
- ◆ Public Health to the Rescue: Emergency Response is Now a Core Service (VHS video – 1 copy)
- ◆ Vaccine Shortages: Protecting the Public's Health amid Strategic and Ethic Concerns (VHS video – 1 copy)

All items should be returned to the library within 30 days of check out, unless special arrangements are made in advance. Clicking on the "Information" link on the PHIX home page and then selecting "BT Library" for more information about the Center for Public Health Preparedness Library.

Please contact Mike Heideman at (785) 296-4363 or mheidema@kdhe.state.ks.us if you would like to check out an item or if you have questions about the library.

REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH MEETINGS

Central Region: Meetings are held at the Reno County Health Department, 209 W 2nd, Hutchinson 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Please contact Debbie Whitmer at 785-827-9639 if you have any questions. Dates are:

July 26 Sept. 27 Nov. 21

North Central Region: Please contact Debbie Whitmer at 785-827-9639 for meeting locations. Dates are:

Aug. 22 Oct. 24 Dec. 19

Northeast Region: Meetings are held at the Curtis State Office Building, 1000 SW Jackson, Flint Hills Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Topeka, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Please contact Anita Hodge at 785-368-8110 if you have any questions. Dates are:

Sept. 14 Dec. 14

Northwest Region: Meetings are held 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the NW Educational Service Center, Oakley. Contact Georgette Schoenfeld, RN, at Logan County Health Department for a lunch reservation at 785-672-4502. Please contact Debbie Whitmer at 785-827-9639 if you have any questions. Dates are:

Aug. 10 Oct. 12 Dec. 7

Southeast Region: Meetings are held 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Southeast District Office, 1500 W 7th, Meadowlark Room, Chanute. Please contact Jon Anderson at 620-431-2390 if you have any questions. Dates are:

Aug. 3 Nov. 9

Southwest Region: Meetings are held 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Finney County Administration Building, 311 N 9th, Garden City. Please contact Debbie Whitmer at 785-827-9639 if you have any questions. Dates are:

July 14 Sept. 15 Nov. 17



SEEKING APPLICANTS



The Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute is seeking applicants for its fourth training cycle, 2006-2007. The year-long cycle will begin with an orientation session following the Kansas Public Health Association conference in Topeka in September.

The KPHLI provides competency-based leadership training to public health professionals from around the state. Through four quarterly training sessions, scholars hear renowned speakers and complete directed readings and reflective writings in consultation with a mentor. The training cycle culminates in the development and presentation of an applied public health capstone project.

Potential scholars must complete an application form, a biosketch/statement of interest, and provide a letter of professional recommendation. Full application instructions can be found on the KPHLI Web site in a PDF of the Cycle IV application brochure (www.waldcenter.org/kphli/scholars.html#CycleIV).

For further information about the KPHLI application process, contact KPHLI Coordinator Theresa St.Romain at tstromain@kumc.edu. Applications should be completed and submitted to Dr. Suzanne Hawley, KPHLI Program Director, no later than August 11.

JOB OPENINGS

Part-Time Public Health Nurse



The Johnson County Public Health Department is seeking a Public Health Nurse on a part-time basis, 20 hours per week and possible evenings. The Public Health Nurse will provide correct analysis of clients needs in family planning; will assure communicable disease control under Kansas Department of Health and Environment and Center for Disease Control guidelines; will provide certified HIV counseling and testing; will contribute to disease control within the county and meeting grant requirements by assessing family planning, client's health, and immunization status and administering vaccines; will contribute to the accuracy and thoroughness of client records and will assist in assuring all clients with abnormal labs are

notified and receive appropriate follow-up and education within a specific time frame for management and control of sexually transmitted diseases.

This position requires a bachelor's degree in nursing and must possess one year of clinical or public health nursing experience. Must be a registered nurse licensed in Kansas from an accredited school of nursing with 30 hours of continuing education units every two years to maintain licensure. Apply online at <http://hr.jocogov.org>; fax 913-715-1419; or mail to: Johnson County Human Resources, 111 S. Cherry, Suite 2600, Olathe, KS 66061.

Medical Technologist

The Johnson County Public Health Department is seeking a Medical Technologist on a full-time basis. Hours are Monday – Friday, 8-5, with 10-7 shifts second and fourth Thursdays of each month. The Medical Technologist assures standardization in all tests performed onsite; provides client education of laboratory tests and instructions; provides day-to-day supervision of all tests performed by nursing staff; reports abnormal test results to appropriate person; obtains blood, urine and other samples from clients; calibrates laboratory equipment; runs all controls on a daily basis; completes daily decontamination of work area; maintains quality control and quality assurance in laboratory and participates in Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) approved National Proficiency Test Program.

This position requires a bachelor's degree in biology, chemistry or physical science and the successful candidate must possess one to two years of experience in high complexity testing for manual hematology. One year internship at an accredited hospital; medical technologist certificate; technical skill phlebotomy training and experience is also required. Requires a valid driver's license and a medical technologist license certification. Exposure to fumes and/or chemicals; travel required 10 percent of the time between two clinics. Apply on-line at <http://hr.jocogov.org>; fax 913-715-1419; or mail to: Johnson County Human Resources, 111 S. Cherry, Suite 2600, Olathe, KS 66061.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Team Leader



The Shawnee County Health Agency is seeking a full-time Public Health Emergency Preparedness Team Leader. The public health emergency preparedness team leader will assure response and support capability to county emergencies/disasters by developing written response procedures, protocols and plans for health department operational and functional response. Will support the Emergency Preparedness Program grant by completing required tasks/objectives. Will also develop and support educational and training programs for community and may assist as needed in disease surveillance in Shawnee County to improve detection of and response to public health emergencies and other county-wide events.

Requires a degree from an accredited college or university in the areas of public health, education, health education, community health or related field. Two years related experience in public health emergency preparedness that includes working with multi-agency collaborations or managing comprehensive programs in a facility or community.

Applicants accepted until filled at the Shawnee County Courthouse, Department of Human Resources, 200 E. 7th, Room B-28, Topeka, KS 66603. For more information regarding the position, please see Web site www.co.shawnee.ks.us or call 785-368-2095.

Public Health/General Duty Nurse



Leavenworth County Health Department is looking for a Public Health/General Nurse. Under general supervision of the director, performs public health nursing duties for the health department. State Registered Nurse's license and a valid Kansas driver's license are required.

Please apply at the Leavenworth Workforce Development Center, 515 Limit Street, Leavenworth or contact Sylvia Burns at 913-250-2006. IMPORTANT: Please write the vacancy number #06-05-1 at the top of your application.

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

Indoor Air Training Scheduled Across Kansas

Would you like to learn more about how to respond to inquiries from the public about mold, moisture and other indoor air problems?

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Bureau of Air and Radiation, and the Wichita City Health Department will be holding four-hour training sessions during July and August. Sessions are to be held in each of the six KDHE districts, and are free of charge.

Training will be for health department personnel, county sanitarians, child care licensure personnel, KDHE staff, extension office personnel, and other interested workers in Kansas who want information about solving indoor air problems.

Training session schedule:

July 17 – Topeka Monday 12:30 – 4:30

1000 S.W. Jackson Street, Room 530

Use parking lot #1 south of Judicial Building; submit license tag # with registration.

KDHE contact: Anita Hodge 785-368-8110

July 26 – Wichita Wednesday 12:30 - 4:30

130 South Market Street, Room 3080

State vehicles use parking garage; get ticket validated. Others use open surface lot across street.

KDHE contact: Mike Jones 316-337-6041

August 1 - Chanute Tuesday 12:30 - 4:30

1500 W. 7th, Kansas Room

Enter main SRS entrance with circle drive.

KDHE contact: Jon Anderson 620-431-2390

August 8 - Hays Tuesday 12:30 - 4:30
601 Main Street, Extension Office Conference Room
KDHE contact: Dan Wells 785-625-5663

August 9 - Dodge City Wednesday 12:30 - 4:30
301 W. McArtor, Conference Room
KDHE contact: Al Guernsey 620-225-0596

August 17 – Salina Thursday 12:30 - 4:30
2025 E Iron, Troop J Administration Building
Use lower parking area, walk to top of hill; circle drive
Sign in sheet in front lobby. No shorts or hats.
KDHE contact: Debbie Whitmer 785-827-9639

Please pre-register: You can sign up at <http://ks.train.org>. If you do not have access to Kansas Train, please send an email to jbarrett@kdhe.state.ks.us.

International Symposium on Usher Syndrome and Related Disorders



Colleagues interested in combined hearing and vision loss are invited to Omaha, Nebraska, on October 4-6 to attend a symposium on Usher Syndrome and related disorders. This conference is designed to facilitate the exchange of ideas between clinical researchers and basic scientists to improve our understanding of the normal and pathologic processes that are involved in combined hearing and vision loss disorders. This is the first symposium of what will be a continuing sequence of meetings on the subject.

The symposium will involve keynote presentations by leaders in the field, free oral papers, and poster sessions. Oral presentations will be cast live over the Internet and will be available as published material to scientists, clinicians, and the public. Boys Town National Research Hospital Omaha and Sahlgrenska University Hospital in Gothenburg, Sweden are sponsoring this symposium. For additional information including agenda, registration, lodging and travel www.sahlgrenska.se/vgrtemplates/Page_38539.aspx#

Speaking a Common Language: The New Voice of Public Health KPHA 2006 Conference:

September 26-28 - Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka



Ed Kalas, Shawnee County Health Department and KPHA President Elect/Conference Chair along with Cyndi Treaster, KDHE, KPHA Conference Session Chair, have done a terrific job in designing the 2006 Public Health Conference. The conference will focus on creating a common language for public health in communities and in the workforce. There will be approximately 20 breakout sessions to give you the opportunity to learn about all the activities within public health that are working to produce the same message throughout all of our health networks in Kansas. With the Kansas Health Foundation grants to KPHA and KALHD, this effort began from a vision and is now becoming a reality. You won't want to miss this opportunity to meet, learn, and share with colleagues, during these exciting times in public health. You can register for the conference through KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>. Click the following link to download the conference agenda www.kpha.us/pdfs/2006_registration_brochure.pdf.

3rd Annual Diabetes Quality of Care Conference October 2-3 at the Radisson Broadview Hotel, Wichita

This conference will provide a unique experience for those interested in improving the quality of care for people with diabetes. The content of the conference will enhance understanding and increase knowledge about diabetes standards of care related to clinical and programmatic perspectives. This conference is designed primarily for physicians, nurses, medical managers, medical staff as well as other team members involved in providing care for patients with diabetes.

Registration is \$75 and the deadline is September 18. Registration covers meals, breaks, materials and admission to all sessions. Limited walk-in registration will be available, however, meals will not be guaranteed.

The conference will be held at the Radisson Broadview Hotel, Wichita. A block of rooms has been reserved at the conference rate of \$72 for single or \$82 for double, per night plus tax, if your reservation is made by September 1.

Continuing Education Credits are available. For physicians: KU Medical Center Office of Continuing Medical Education designates this educational activity for a maximum of 13 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™]. Nurses will receive continuing education credits of 15.4 contact hours.

For more information contact Kate Watson, Diabetes Prevention and Control Program 785-291-3739 or kwatson@kdhe.state.ks.us.

Billing Workshops

NE Billing Group meets at the Curtis State Office Building, 1000 SW Jackson, Flint Hills Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Topeka, 9 a.m. - noon. For more information, contact Anita Hodge at 785-368-8110. Upcoming dates:
Aug. 3 Nov. 2

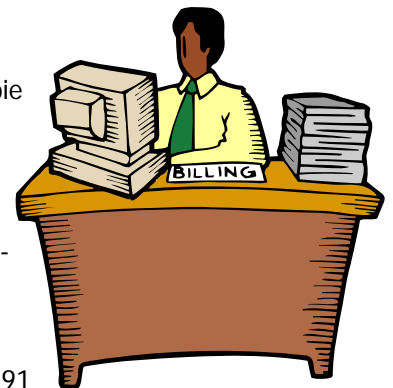
Billing Biddies meets 9 a.m. – noon. For more information, contact Debbie Whitmer at 785-827-9639. Upcoming dates:
Sept. 6 Dec. 6

Billers Anonymous meets 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. For more information, contact Debbie Whitmer at 785-827-9639. Upcoming dates:
Aug. 9 Nov. 8

Mission Impossible Group meets 9 a.m. – noon, Reno County Health Department, Hutchinson. For more information, contact Debbie Whitmer at 785-827-9639. Upcoming dates:
Aug. 24 Nov. 21

KUG's - For more information, contact Michelle Miller at 620-675-8191 mmiller@satantahospital.org.

Billers-R-Us meets at the district office in Chanute, Meadowlark Room, 9 a.m. - noon. For more information, contact Jon Anderson at 920-431-2390. Upcoming dates:
July 11 Oct. 10



**LOCAL HEALTH SECTION
OFFICE OF LOCAL & RURAL HEALTH**

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